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From: Lawler, Michael (DPH)
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 1:42 PM
To: 'Head, Jill M.'
Cc: Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Piro, Peter (DPH)
Subject: question from Massachusetts for June 6 to 10 session

Jill,

I would like to pose this question for consideration of your group for possible discussion at our training session. It involves the analysis of GHB. I am guessing that with the size of the cases DEA examines, you may not have had to consider this situation. But if you have, I would be grateful to have a protocol from the DEA with your approach.

At the scale of beverage containers, soft drinks, juices, bottled waters, etc. we get submissions which suggest GHB. Whether for personal use or as a facilitator of sexual assault, we get these samples 3 or 4 times a year.

Problem is, we had been analyzing the samples through an HPLC screen with a gc/ms derivatization with BSTFA to confirm.

Our HPLC suffered a catastrophic failure at several levels and has been taken off line. We have been trying several published schemes, which are labor intensive and only have the authority of having been published academically, with limited or no apparent forensic history.

Does the DEA have a standing analytic scheme for the isolation of GHB from aqueous matrix; ie, liquids as noted above? I would much prefer to adopt the scheme of an outfit with your forensic prestige than an academic one with no trial history.

Actually, if you had anything that you could release to us earlier, I would be grateful.

Thank you for your consideration. Looking forward to the June session.

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